

SB3489



96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2009 and 2010

SB3489

Introduced 2/10/2010, by Sen. Heather Steans

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21-1

from Ch. 122, par. 21-1

Amends the Teacher Certification Article of the School Code. Removes a provision that provides that no one may be certified to teach or supervise in the public schools who is not of good health. Provides that a person must be at least 20 (instead of 19) years of age in order to be certified to teach or supervise in the public schools. Effective July 1, 2010.

LRB096 19696 NHT 35099 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section
5 21-1 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21-1) (from Ch. 122, par. 21-1)

7 Sec. 21-1. Qualification of teachers. No one may be
8 certified to teach or supervise in the public schools of this
9 State who is not of good character, ~~of good health,~~ a citizen
10 of the United States or legally present and authorized for
11 employment, and at least 20 ~~19~~ years of age. No one may be
12 certified to teach or supervise in the public schools of this
13 State who has been convicted of an offense set forth in Section
14 21-23a of this Code. An applicant for a certificate who is not
15 a citizen of the United States must sign and file with the
16 State Board of Education a letter of intent indicating that
17 either (i) within 10 years after the date that the letter is
18 filed or (ii) at the earliest opportunity after the person
19 becomes eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship, the person will
20 apply for U.S. citizenship.

21 Citizenship is not required for the issuance of a temporary
22 part-time certificate to participants in approved training
23 programs for exchange students as described in Section 21-10.2.

1 A certificate issued under this plan shall expire on June 30
2 following the date of issue. One renewal for one year is
3 authorized if the holder remains as an official participant in
4 an approved exchange program.

5 In determining good character under this Section, any
6 felony conviction of the applicant may be taken into
7 consideration, but, unless the conviction is an offense set
8 forth in Section 21-23a of this Code, an applicant must be
9 permitted to submit character references or other written
10 material before such a conviction or other information
11 regarding the applicant's character may be used by the State
12 Superintendent of Education as a basis for denying the
13 application.

14 No person otherwise qualified shall be denied the right to
15 be certified, to receive training for the purpose of becoming a
16 teacher or to engage in practice teaching in any school because
17 of a physical disability including but not limited to visual
18 and hearing disabilities; nor shall any school district refuse
19 to employ a teacher on such grounds, provided that the person
20 is able to carry out the duties of the position for which he
21 applies.

22 No person may be granted or continue to hold a teaching
23 certificate who has knowingly altered or misrepresented his or
24 her teaching qualifications in order to acquire the
25 certificate. Any other certificate held by such person may be
26 suspended or revoked by the State Teacher Certification Board,

1 depending upon the severity of the alteration or
2 misrepresentation.

3 No one may teach or supervise in the public schools nor
4 receive for teaching or supervising any part of any public
5 school fund, who does not hold a certificate of qualification
6 granted by the State Board of Education or by the State Teacher
7 Certification Board and a regional superintendent of schools as
8 hereinafter provided, or by the board of education of a city
9 having a population exceeding 500,000 inhabitants except as
10 provided in Section 34-6 and in Section 10-22.34 or Section
11 10-22.34b. However, the provisions of this Article do not apply
12 to a member of the armed forces who is employed as a teacher of
13 subjects in the Reserve Officer's Training Corps of any school.
14 Sections 21-2 through 21-24 do not apply to cities having a
15 population exceeding 500,000 inhabitants, until July 1, 1988.

16 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the board
17 of education of any school district may grant to a teacher of
18 the district a leave of absence with full pay for a period of
19 not more than one year to permit such teacher to teach in a
20 foreign state under the provisions of the Exchange Teacher
21 Program established under Public Law 584, 79th Congress, and
22 Public Law 402, 80th Congress, as amended. The school board
23 granting such leave of absence may employ with or without pay a
24 national of the foreign state wherein the teacher on leave of
25 absence will teach, if the national is qualified to teach in
26 that foreign state, and if that national will teach in a grade

1 level similar to the one which was taught in such foreign
2 state. The State Board of Education shall promulgate and
3 enforce such reasonable rules as may be necessary to effectuate
4 this paragraph.

5 (Source: P.A. 96-431, eff. 8-13-09.)

6 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
7 2010.